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Annual Report 2010-2011 Ottawa Technical Secondary School Council

It gives me great pleasure to provide this annual report on behalf of the members of the OTSS School Council. Over the course of this school year, a vibrant and enthusiastic school council held 10 monthly meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month in the OTSS School Library with an average attendance of 10 members. Early in the school year the following slate of officers were elected: Kimberley Allen-McGill, Chair; Dan Oickle, Vice-Chair and OCSAC Representative; Vicki Ross, Secretary.

The school council at OTSS is an advisory group made up of parents and staff representatives. At each meeting, we aim to discuss matters of interest to parents of OTSS students, and to support the school community. One of the highlights of each meeting is to receive informative (and often illuminating!) reports from the dedicated staff at the Ottawa Technical Secondary School who work with our children each day. We thank them for their hard work and for sharing their professional expertise, skills, and immense talents with our families!

The following is a summary of the school council's activities carried out over 9 meetings this year:

- Sadly, we started the school year by expressing our sympathies to staff, students, and the family of Alex Hayes, who lost his life in an accident within the first few days of the school year
- We were active participants in OCASC, and our chair, attended the school council recognition reception at Board office last Fall
- As a result of the school's name change, the council updated the OTSS School Council Constitution and Principal's Profile to reflect this change. Thank you to Brenda Reisch who held the pen on this work!
- Considerable effort and discussion took place over the entire year in order to reach out and communicate with the wider school community. An e-mail contact list was established, and staff work on a weekly newsletter circulated via e-mail was much appreciated.
- We revisited our goals, with communications, parental engagement, and succession planning primary concerns for this year.
- A parental consultation session was held in order to provide opportunities for parents to provide feedback on a proposal to transition the school timetable to a semester system. Documentation was also posted on the website.
- The council provided feedback to staff on parent-teacher interviews, and student-led conferences, with an expressed preference for the latter.
- We are happy to congratulate staff on the acquisition of a "Healthy Schools" designation, under a Ministry wide program.
- Our chair represented the council at a book launch celebrating with OTSS's first published student author, Benjamin Ford.
- And finally, using Parent's Reaching Out grant monies, we updated panels for the school council display and developed a flyer promoting the council that will be sent to the parents of all new students coming to OTSS. We hope that these welcoming resources will entice parents to join us at a meeting or two next year. We thank Algonquin College graphic design student, Emily Whalen, for her work on the projects, and also, OTSS staff member, Anne Villeneuve for sharing such beautiful images for these projects. developed outreach materials (a flyer) for parents new to the school community inviting them to school council activities.

Thank you to the many volunteers, and especially school council executive members Dan Oickle and Vicki Ross, who faithfully attended meetings, lent a hand, participated in discussions and shared their views around the school council table and provided support and feedback in various ways!

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Allen-McGill, Chair, Ottawa Technical Secondary School Council 2010-2011